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Dated: October 29, 2003 Signature: 
(Steven A. Garner)

Docket No.: LAGROTH 3.3-028
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: :
Backlund et al. :
Application No.: 10/018,126 : Group Art Unit: 2855
Filed: December 12, 2001 : Examiner: L. Martir
For: METHOD AND MEANS FOR MEASURING :
STRESS FORCES IN REFINERS :
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits the within communication in response to the Official Action mailed August 20, 2003.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-28 that are pending in the instant application.

Claims 14, 16-21 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Johansson, U.S. Patent No. 6,314,381. Applicant submits that Johansson is not prior art, as it has a filing date of March 8, 2000. The present application claims priority to the foreign application, SE 9902306-1, with a filing date of June 17, 1999. Since this date of June 17, 1999, is prior to the filing date of Johansson, this reference cannot be considered prior art. As such, Applicant submits that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 22-23 and 27-28 were not rejected, but instead were objected to as depending from a rejected base

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claim. This objection should be withdrawn, inasmuch as claims 14, 15-21 and 24-26 are believed allowable.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By Steven A. Garner
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